

**Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 19, 2010**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Dorothy Graham, Janet Merritt, Linda Spak, William Wilson, Sandra Kelly, Marguerite Donnelly and Betsy Theve. Committee member Mimi Leveille was absent. Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes was present for the recording of minutes.

Gail Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m.

**Approve Minutes of April 21, 2010 Meeting**

Ms. Theve moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2010, seconded by Ms. Donnelly.

Ayes: 7 (Wilson, Kelly, Theve, Spak, Graham, Pierce, Donnelly) Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Leveille, Merritt)

Ms. Merritt joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

**Tracy Fredericks – RI LISC / AmeriCore / BIED Assistance position**

Tracy Fredericks was present. She spoke about her duties as an AmeriCore Community Organizer, highlighting her role as a social service assistant. She noted that she assists all age groups needing support (financial, medical, etc.) and refers them to appropriate services. She distributed her phone number for referrals. Mr. Wilson questioned whether the position would continue beyond a year and if the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee could do anything to help the position continue. Tracy Fredericks explained that currently the position is only funded through September 2010 and BIED would need to commit to continuing the partial funding of the position going forward.

The Committee members thanked Ms. Fredericks for meeting with them.

**FISH**

Ms. Pierce noted that the FISH magnets have been distributed.

Ms. Donnelly noted that in an effort to strengthen the volunteer base for FISH, Betty Fitzpatrick and Ann Fagan are providing volunteer signup sheets at church services.

**Senior Moments**

Block Island Times reporter Gloria Redlich will work on the following “Senior Moments” articles:

- Profiles of Block Island seniors.
- Tracy Fredericks AmeriCore work as it relates to senior services.

**Update on Activities:**

It was noted that representatives from Tri-Town Community Action and South County Elder Care came and spoke at Lunch Bunch regarding the services they could offer to Block Island residents.

### Library Activities

The weekly movie program at the library continues. It was suggested that the program be included in the Block Island Times "On the Block" listing.

### Chair Aerobics

Certified teacher, Cindy Kelly will run a chair aerobics program as soon as her time allows. Kelly Milstead is willing to act as a substitute.

### Swimming Pool

Ms. Spak reported that she has been unable to schedule a meeting with Ms. McAloon of the Neptune House. She noted that water aerobics is on-going.

### AAA for Seniors

Ms. Spak stated that she contacted both AAA and AARP about providing a senior safety driving class on Block Island in the fall. AAA's class is two days, where AARP is only one day. It was decided to book the AARP class for September 29, 2010. The AARP class costs \$12.00 per participant. Ms. Spak noted that some insurance companies will offer discounts with proof of completion of the safety class. The Committee members thanked Ms. Spak for her work putting the program together.

### **Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act of 1965**

Ms. Kelly explained that the RI Department of Elderly Affairs hosted a few meetings regarding the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. She noted that she emailed the Department and is now on the Elderly Affairs email notification list.

The Committee decided to change the order of the agenda and address Community Bulletin Board Email before Spending Plan re: Town Funding.

### **Community Bulletin Board by Email**

Ms. Merritt reviewed the email organizations that she administers. She explained that in order to start a community wide email exchange there should first be a mission statement and guidelines established. Guidelines such as promoting events, offering services, asking for help and asking for services should be included. It should not be issue oriented. Ms. Merritt volunteered to administer such a program. Ms. Merritt, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Graham volunteered to create guidelines. "Let's be Neighbors" and "Let's Help" were names suggested for the program.

### **Spending Plan re: Town Funding**

The following items to finance with Town funding were suggested:

- Scholarships for the driving safety course
- Underwriting for off-island trips for seniors (Theatre by the Sea, etc.)
- Installation of a phone line
- Local on-island trips or tours

### **Public Input**

There was no public input.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2010.

Ms. Donnelly stated that she would report on the “daily contact” program at the next meeting.

At 11:52 p.m., Ms. Merritt moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Theve and carried unanimously.

Millie McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: June 16, 2010